

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3-5, and 9-16 are pending of which claim 1 is independent. Claim 1 has been amended to include claims 2 and 6. Claims 2 and 6 were consequently cancelled.

Furthermore, claim 9 has been amended to correct a clerical error. No new matter has been introduced.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner indicates that a combination of claims 1, 2, and 6 would be favorably considered. See line 4 on page 4 of the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, because claims 2 and 6 have been included in claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the art herein of record does not teach or suggest instant claim 1 -- much less the claims dependent thereon.

For any and all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention is patentable.

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is courteously solicited. If any questions remain, however, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

By: 

Paul L. Sharer

Registration No. 36,004

Direct No. (703) 905-2180

PO Box 10500  
McLean, VA 22102  
Fax: (703) 905-2500